

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 208265
ORIGIN ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 MCT-02 PM-05 SIG-03
HEW-04 OES-09 HA-05 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13 L-03
NSAE-00 EB-08 NRC-05 SOE-02 DODE-00 DOE-15 SS-15
SP-02 CEQ-01 SAS-02 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00
INRE-00 SY-05 /144 R

DRAFTED BY ACDA/MA;MFINARELLI
APPROVED BY ACDA/MA:TDAVIES
M/CT:AQUAINTON
EUR/LE:NLAUDERDALE
EA/J:MMEYERS
CUR/NE:RWOODS
EUR/WE.MCRAMERUS
ACDA/GC:MMAZEAU
PM:DCARLSON (SUBS)
ACDA/MA/IR:WMOFFITT

-----111659 170002Z /14

O 162231Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY OSLO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BERN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 208265

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL
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PAGE 02 STATE 208265

SUBJECT: US INTEREST IN FOREIGN CIVIL PROGRAMS FOR DEFENSE
AGAINST CHEMICAL BIOLOGICAL ATTACK

REF: A) STATE 204325 B) STATE 028793

1. AS INDICATED REF A, US HEW'S COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

CENTER (CDC) IN ATLANTA IS STUDYING US CIVIL PREPAREDNESS TO FACE CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL ATTACKS BOTH IN WARTIME AND AS A RESULT OF TERRORIST ACTIVITIES. USG WOULD LIKE TO KNOW IF ANY OTHER GOVERNMENTS HAVE PROGRAMS IN THIS AREA AND HAS THEREFORE REQUESTED EMBASSIES TO INVESTIGATE HOST GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES IN CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL DEFENSE.

2. IN MAKING INITIAL INQUIRIES AND IN ANY FUTURE CONSULTATIONS ON THIS SUBJECT, EMBOFFS SHOULD BE AWARE OF THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

A. THE US, THE USSR AND NEARLY SEVENTY OTHER NATIONS HAVE RATIFIED THE 1975 BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION. THIS TREATY PROHIBITS THE DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION, AND STOCKPILING OF ALL BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS.

B. THE US, THE USSR AND OVER ONE HUNDRED OTHER NATIONS HAVE RATIFIED THE 1925 GENEVA PROTOCOL FOR THE PROHIBITION OF THE USE IN WAR OF ASPHYXIATING, POISONOUS OR OTHER GASES, AND OF BACTERIOLOGICAL METHODS OF WARFARE.

C. THE US AND THE USSR ARE CURRENTLY ENGAGED IN INTENSIVE BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS AIMED AT DEVELOPING A JOINT INITIATIVE PROHIBITING THE DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION, AND STOCKPILING OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS. THIS JOINT INITIATIVE
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SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 208265

WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE MULTILATERAL NEGOTIATING BODY IN GENEVA FOR ELABORATION INTO A MULTILATERAL CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION.

3. THE US HAS NO EVIDENCE THAT THE USSR HAS VIOLATED OR INTENDS TO VIOLATE EITHER THE 1925 GENEVA PROTOCOL OR THE 1975 BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION. (REPORTS OF SOVIET VIOLATION OF THE BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION WERE MADE IN THE WESTERN PRESS THIS SPRING; THE US ASSURED NATO (REF B) THAT THE ACCUSATIONS WERE UNFOUNDED.) BECAUSE OF THIS AND BECAUSE OF THE SENSITIVITIES OF THE ONGOING CHEMICAL WEAPONS NEGOTIATIONS, EMBOFFS SHOULD AVOID LEAVING ANY IMPRESSION WITH HOST GOVERNMENTS THAT US CONCERN ABOUT MILITARY CHEMICAL OR BIOLOGICAL ATTACK HAS SUDDENLY INCREASED.

4. IN CONSULTATIONS WITH HOST GOVERNMENTS, EMBOFFS SHOULD EMPHASIZE CDC'S CONCERN WITH POSSIBLE TERRORIST USE OF CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL AGENTS AND CDC'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROTECTION OF US CIVIL POPULATION ONLY. (MILITARY RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, AND TRAINING FOR DEFENSE OF THE MILITARY AGAINST CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL ATTACK

REMAINS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE US ARMY.) CHRISTOPHER

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